

MORNING PAPERS .. THURSDAY, 20TH DECEMBER, 1945.
EVENING PAPERS .. THURSDAY, 20TH DECEMBER, 1945.

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFITS STATISTICS
NOVEMBER, 1945.

This summary issued by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician covers the first five months' operations of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, 1944, which came into operation on 1st July, 1945.

The Act provides for the payment of benefit to persons whose normal earnings have been interrupted through unemployment or temporary incapacity. The Act also provides a third class of benefit - designated Special Benefit - which gives a measure of assistance to those persons who, on account of some special circumstance, cannot comply with the statutory requirements relating to unemployment or sickness benefit, and who are prevented from earning a livelihood and are in need.

The rate of benefit per week is 25 shillings for a married person or an unmarried adult, plus 20 shillings for a dependent spouse and 5 shillings if the claimant has the custody, care and control of one or more children under 16 years of age. Thus the maximum benefit is £2.10s. per week. For unmarried juveniles the rate of benefit is 15 shillings if under 18 years, and 20 shillings if 18 and under 21 years.

A claimant is allowed a certain income without the rate of benefit being affected. Beyond this allowable amount, the rate is reduced by the amount of the excess income.

The numbers of recipients of benefit do not embrace the total unemployment and sickness in the community. Unemployment or sickness of less than seven days duration is not covered due to the provision in the Act of a "waiting period" of this length of time during which no benefit is payable. Permanent incapacity is not included as this is covered by the Invalid and Old Age Pensions Act. The application of the "means test" excludes another group from benefit. Some persons entitled to benefit may not yet be aware of the provisions of the Act.

During the five months, July to November, 1945, 16,365 claims were admitted comprising 13,928 sickness, 2,360 unemployment and 77 special benefits, whilst 8,997 of these benefits were discontinued (7,919 sickness, 1,067 unemployment and 11 special), leaving 7,368 persons in receipt of benefit at the end of November, 1945 (6,009 sickness, 1,293 unemployment and 66 special).

Claims admitted during November, 1945, amounted to 4,025 (3,158 sickness, 849 unemployment and 18 special), whilst 2,632 benefits were discontinued during the same period (2,266 sickness, 362 unemployment and 4 special).

The total number of benefits granted and discontinued during the five months 1st July to 24th November, 1945, and beneficiaries remaining on benefit at 24th November, 1945, in each class of benefit is shown in the following table:-

AUSTRALIA : CLAIMS ADMITTED ETC., FROM 1ST JULY 1945 TO 24TH NOVEMBER 1945.

Class of Benefit	Claims admitted during five months			Exits during five months			On benefit at 24th November, 1945		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Unemployment	2,155	205	2,360	973	94	1,067	1,182	111	1,293
Sickness ..	11,661	2,267	13,928	6,729	1,190	7,919	4,932	1,077	6,009
Special ..	7	70	77	5	6	11	2	64	66
Total:	13,823	2,542	16,365	7,707	1,290	8,997	6,116	1,252	7,368

The following table shows the number of benefits granted and discontinued during the four weeks ended 24th November, 1945:-

AUSTRALIA : CLAIMS ADMITTED & DISCONTINUED DURING 4 WEEKS ENDED 24TH NOVEMBER 1945.

Class of Benefit	On benefit at 27th October, 1945			Claims admitted during 4 weeks ended 24th November, 1945			Exits during 4 weeks ended 24th November, 1945		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Unemployment	762	44	806	762	87	849	342	20	362
Sickness ..	4,192	925	5,117	2,614	544	3,158	1,874	392	2,266
Special ..	1	51	52	2	16	18	1	3	4
Total:	4,955	1,020	5,975	3,378	647	4,025	2,217	415	2,632

Note: The number of persons remaining on benefit at 24th November, 1945, is shown in the preceding table.

The following table shows the number of persons in each State in receipt of benefit at 24th November, 1945:-

STATES : NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 24TH NOVEMBER, 1945.

State	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		TOTAL		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
New South Wales (a)	495	94	2,035	429	1	14	2,531	537	3,068
Victoria ..	202	6	1,129	284	-	12	1,331	302	1,633
Queensland ..	195	7	705	118	-	8	900	133	1,033
South Australia(b)	119	1	494	111	-	3	613	115	728
Western Australia	125	3	281	76	1	9	407	88	495
Tasmania ..	46	-	288	59	-	18	334	77	411
Totals:	1,182	111	4,932	1,077	2	64	6,116	1,252	7,368

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.

The number of weeks during which benefit was paid for each of the 8,997 cases of benefit discontinued during the period 1st July, 1945 to 24th November, 1945, is shown in the following table:-

AUSTRALIA : DURATION OF BENEFITS DISCONTINUED
1ST JULY, 1945 TO 24TH NOVEMBER, 1945.

Duration of Benefit	Unemployment			Sickness			TOTAL		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
<u>Weeks</u>									
Less than one	203	23	226	789	103	892	993(a)	126	1,119(a)
1 and Under 2	251	41	292	1,361	213	1,574	1,613(a)	254	1,867(a)
2 " " 3	148	13	161	1,076	184	1,260	1,244	199(a)	1,423(a)
3 " " 4	98	5	103	864	164	1,028	962	169	1,131
4 " " 5	71	2	73	648	130	778	719	132	851
5 " " 9	136	8	144	1,333	253	1,586	1,471(a)	263(a)	1,734(a)
9 and Over ..	66	2	68	658	143	801	725(a)	147(a)	872(a)
Total:	973	94	1,067	6,729	1,190	7,919	7,707(a)	1,290(a)	8,997(a)

(a) Includes Special Benefits.

Of the 8,997 benefits discontinued during the first five months' operations of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, 2,606 persons (or 29 per cent.) were in receipt of benefit for five weeks and over, 3,457 (or 38 per cent.) for four weeks and over, 4,588 (or 51 per cent.) for three weeks and over, 6,011 (or 67 per cent.) for two weeks and over, 7,878 (or 88 per cent.) for one week and over, whilst 1,119 (or 12 per cent.) received benefit for less than one week.

The average duration of sickness benefit was longer than that of unemployment, forty per cent. of the sickness and twenty-seven per cent. of the unemployment cases discontinued being on benefit for four weeks and over.

The following table shows the principal types of sickness, as stated on medical certificates, etc., of those who were in receipt of Sickness Benefit at 24th November, 1945, compared with those as at 27th October, 1945:-

AUSTRALIA : NATURE OF SICKNESS - PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT
24TH NOVEMBER AND 27TH OCTOBER, 1945.

Nature of Sickness	At 27th October, 1945			At 24th November, 1945		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	244	72	316	281	91	372
Cancer and Other Tumours ..	82	35	117	104	42	146
Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition and Vitamin-Deficiency Diseases ..	331	110	441	395	119	514
Diseases of -						
Blood and Blood-forming organs ..	35	22	57	33	31	64
Nervous System and Sense Organs ..	428	142	560	480	157	637
Circulatory System ..	508	49	557	610	54	664
Respiratory System ..	470	62	532	543	78	621
Digestive System ..	832	121	953	1,014	162	1,176
Genito-Urinary System ..	189	60	249	227	67	294
Pregnancy, Childbirth, etc. ..	-	47	47	-	61	61

/Skin

AUSTRALIA : NATURE OF SICKNESS - PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT
24TH NOVEMBER AND 27TH OCTOBER, 1945. (Continued)

Nature of Sickness	At 27th October, 1945			At 24th November, 1945		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Diseases of -						
Skin and Cellular Tissue ..	166	27	193	207	32	239
Bones and Organs of Movement ..	123	27	160	141	31	172
Other Diseases (including Ill-Defined Conditions) ..	69	34	103	85	47	132
Injuries and Acute Poisoning -						
Fractures ..	414	41	455	448	41	489
Other Injuries, etc. ..	238	38	276	291	27	318
Operations (original disability not stated) ..	47	32	79	53	29	82
Other ..	16	6	22	20	8	28
Total:	4,192	925	5,117	4,932	1,077	6,009

The two most prevalent infective and parasitic diseases of those on benefit at 24th November, 1945 were tuberculosis (146 persons) and diseases due or attributed to filterable viruses (123 persons), of which influenza was the principal. Rheumatism and rheumatoid arthritis accounted for 419 cases in the category "rheumatism, diseases of nutrition and vitamin-deficiency diseases". Mental disorders and deficiency (294 persons) were the most common complaints in diseases of the nervous system. The main groups under diseases of the circulatory system were heart diseases (449 persons), idiopathic high blood pressure (91 persons) and diseases of the veins (69 persons). Pneumonia and pleurisy (248 persons), bronchitis (162 persons) and asthma (67 persons) accounted for most of the respiratory diseases. Diseases of the intestines (appendicitis, hernia, etc., 614 persons) and diseases of the stomach (ulcers of stomach and duodenum, etc., 384 persons) accounted for most of the diseases of the digestive system.

In the following two statements is shown the distribution, according to main industrial groups of those who were in receipt of unemployment and sickness benefits at 24th November, 1945. For comparison figures as at 27th October, 1945 are added:-

AUSTRALIA : INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - PERSONS ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT AT
24TH NOVEMBER, 1945 AND 27TH OCTOBER, 1945.

Industrial Group	On benefit at 27th October, 1945			On benefit at 24th November, 1945		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying ..	63	1	64	79	1	80
Other Primary Production ..	9	-	9	14	-	14
Coal Mining ..	4	-	4	8	-	8
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	20	-	20	21	-	21
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal working including shipbuilding ..	152	14	166	344	72	416
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	90	2	92	98	2	100
Textiles and articles of dress ..	10	4	14	19	5	24
Food, drink and tobacco ..	54	-	54	83	2	85
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	11	-	11	11	-	11
Other Factories, including heat, light and power ..	42	-	42	53	-	53
Building and Construction ..	69	-	69	101	-	101
Transport and Communication ..	55	1	56	88	-	88
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade ..	56	8	64	75	6	81
Finance and Property ..	2	-	2	6	-	6
Public Administration and Professional ..	66	-	66	104	4	108
Personal and Domestic Service ..	48	11	59	62	15	77
Other ..	11	3	14	16	4	20
Total:	762	44	806	1,182	111	1,293

AUSTRALIA : INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - PERSONS ON SICKNESS BENEFIT
AT 24TH NOVEMBER, 1945 AND 27TH OCTOBER, 1945.

Industrial Group	On benefit at 27th October, 1945			On benefit at 24th November, 1945		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying ..	241	5	246	299	6	305
Other Primary Production ..	56	-	56	83	-	83
Coal Mining ..	234	-	234	247	-	247
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	58	-	58	69	-	69
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal working including shipbuilding ..	849	48	897	1,011	71	1,082
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	255	18	273	276	16	292
Textiles and articles of dress ..	131	187	318	154	194	348
Food, drink and tobacco ..	299	78	377	338	93	431
Furniture, woodworking, etc. ..	158	2	160	173	3	176
Other Factories, including heat, light and power ..	385	74	459	424	85	509
Building and Construction ..	359	2	361	463	2	465
Transport and Communication ..	402	26	428	463	29	492
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade ..	345	154	499	431	160	591
Finance and Property ..	25	14	39	35	15	50
Public Administration and Professional ..	243	138	381	282	176	458
Personal and Domestic Service ..	141	178	319	171	224	395
Other ..	11	1	12	13	3	16
Total:	4,192	925	5,117	4,932	1,077	6,009

The proportion of persons on benefit at 24th November, 1945, to the estimated number of employees in employment was approximately 34 per 10,000, comprising 28 sickness and 6 unemployment cases per 10,000.

The number of "persons on benefit" shown in this summary relates to principal beneficiaries who would normally be breadwinners. Dependants of such beneficiaries are not included.

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,

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